

COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER EXPENDITURE SURVEY

The Consumer Expenditure Survey consists of two components-- the Diary survey and the Interview survey. For the Diary survey, respondents complete a diary of expenses for two consecutive 1-week periods. The Diary survey is designed to obtain data on frequently purchased items, such as food or housekeeping supplies, that respondents are less likely to recall over time. For the Interview survey, respondents report data to an interviewer. Respondents are interviewed five times over an 18 month time period--once every 3 months. This survey is designed to collect data on major items of expense, such as property purchases or vehicle purchases, that respondents recall for 3 months or longer.

TABLE SECTIONS

The tables contain some or all of the following sections. A section of average annual expenditures consisting of fourteen main categories: Food, alcoholic beverages, housing, apparel and services, transportation, health care, entertainment, personal care products and services, reading, education, tobacco products and smoking supplies, miscellaneous, cash contributions, and personal insurance and pensions.

USES OF THE SURVEY

The Consumer Expenditure Survey data are of value to government and private agencies interested in studying the welfare of particular segments of the population. The data are used by economic policy makers interested in the effects of policy changes on various groups. Econometricians use the data in economic models. Market researchers use the data to determine the demand for goods and services. The results of the Consumer Expenditure Surveys are used to revise the market baskets of the Consumer Price Index, and to derive new cost weights for the baskets.

ADDITIONAL DATA AVAILABLE

A more detailed listing of CEX results can be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Philadelphia by dialing 215-597-4153 and accessing the document codes provided below. Additional CEX tables are also offered on the BLS Internet site <http://stats.bls.gov/csxhome.htm> in both text and PDF formats. For personal assistance or further information on the Consumer Expenditure Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Philadelphia Information Office at 215-861-3282.

BLS Fax-on-Demand - Philadelphia (215) 597-4153	Number of pages	Document no.
Consumer Expenditures in 1999 - national news release (annual)	2	2705
CEX data -		
By quintiles of income before taxes (Table 1)	4	2710
By income before taxes (Table 2)	4	2715
By age of reference person (Table 3)	4	2720
By size of consumer unit (Table 4)	4	2725
By composition of consumer unit (Table 5)	4	2730
By number of earners (Table 6)	4	2735
By housing tenure, race, Hispanic origin, and type of area - urban or rural (Table 7)	4	2740
By region of residence (Table 8)	4	2745
By occupation of reference person (Table 9)	4	2750
By education of reference person (Table 10)	4	2760

Table 21. Selected northeastern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 1998-1999

Item	All consumer units in the Northeast	New York	Philadelphia	Boston	Pittsburgh
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	20,933	7,633	1,912	2,456	1,094
Consumer unit characteristics:					
Income before taxes ¹	\$46,809	\$55,680	\$48,442	\$51,409	\$36,860
Age of reference person	49.0	48.3	49.9	46.9	52.2
Average number in consumer unit:					
Persons	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.2
Children under 18 .....	.6	.7	.7	.6	.5
Persons 65 and over .....	.3	.3	.3	.3	.4
Earners	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2
Vehicles	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.8
Percent homeowner	62	53	73	62	68
Average annual expenditures	\$37,971	\$44,016	\$40,149	\$39,286	\$34,517
Food	5,314	6,265	4,753	4,904	4,981
Food at home	3,001	3,374	2,596	2,486	2,803
Cereals and bakery products	474	525	381	382	465
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	808	983	768	659	715
Dairy products	342	375	291	285	331
Fruits and vegetables	539	628	474	508	447
Other food at home	838	863	681	653	846
Food away from home	2,313	2,891	2,157	2,417	2,177
Alcoholic beverages	368	405	350	519	280
Housing	13,229	16,180	14,783	14,611	9,992
Shelter	8,149	10,552	9,239	9,478	4,945
Owned dwellings	5,209	6,403	6,615	6,110	3,080
Rented dwellings	2,390	3,544	1,875	2,396	1,587
Other lodging	550	606	749	973	278
Utilities, fuels, and public services	2,457	2,592	2,841	2,419	2,426
Household operations	581	758	518	667	397
Housekeeping supplies	474	497	477	363	688
Household furnishings and equipment	1,567	1,781	1,709	1,684	1,535
Apparel and services	1,831	2,327	1,433	1,671	2,331
Transportation	6,503	6,972	7,896	6,312	5,795
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	2,761	2,655	3,865	2,645	2,443
Gasoline and motor oil	901	877	869	923	862
Other vehicle expenses	2,266	2,523	2,706	2,143	2,184
Public transportation	575	917	457	600	307
Health care	1,788	1,863	1,781	1,686	1,932
Entertainment	1,821	2,007	1,721	1,937	1,631
Personal care products and services	399	485	295	344	522
Reading	198	216	192	226	181
Education	877	975	1,088	1,252	467
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	309	304	260	292	296
Miscellaneous	872	943	928	711	993
Cash contributions	1,001	1,022	1,093	1,191	1,408
Personal insurance and pensions	3,461	4,052	3,576	3,631	3,710
Life and other personal insurance	424	464	543	396	1,078
Pensions and Social Security	3,037	3,588	3,033	3,235	2,632

¹ Components of income and taxes are derived from "complete income reporters" only; see glossary.

Table 23. Selected southern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 1998-1999

Item	All consumer units in the South	Washington, D.C.	Baltimore	Atlanta	Miami	Tampa	Dallas-Fort Worth	Houston
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	37,577	1,852	941	1,725	1,402	1,019	2,035	1,700
Consumer unit characteristics:								
Income before taxes ¹	\$39,371	\$65,387	\$48,355	\$49,483	\$45,233	\$40,101	\$52,874	\$50,313
Age of reference person	47.6	46.5	48.7	45.6	49.2	50.8	44.6	44.8
Average number in consumer unit:								
Persons	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.8
Children under 18 .....	.7	.7	.7	.7	.7	.5	.7	.9
Persons 65 and over .....	.3	.3	.3	.2	.4	.4	.2	.2
Earners	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.5
Vehicles	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.9
Percent homeowner	67	64	66	68	64	70	59	56
Average annual expenditures	\$33,147	\$46,797	\$39,787	\$38,726	\$38,144	\$32,932	\$44,225	\$43,043
Food	4,533	5,358	5,165	4,449	4,791	4,750	6,490	5,624
Food at home	2,660	2,907	2,967	2,390	2,884	2,741	3,512	2,948
Cereals and bakery products	401	412	441	365	465	398	535	409
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	725	696	799	649	905	786	910	819
Dairy products	282	291	312	234	326	295	384	294
Fruits and vegetables	438	602	502	415	497	438	601	522
Other food at home	815	906	913	727	692	825	1,082	904
Food away from home	1,873	2,451	2,198	2,060	1,908	2,009	2,979	2,676
Alcoholic beverages	253	419	371	240	306	405	329	412
Housing	10,303	16,381	13,489	13,739	13,963	11,044	13,228	13,109
Shelter	5,467	10,472	8,169	8,136	8,443	6,258	7,358	7,167
Owned dwellings	3,465	6,501	5,756	5,397	5,380	3,836	4,394	4,123
Rented dwellings	1,641	3,052	1,784	2,230	2,744	1,873	2,662	2,572
Other lodging	361	920	629	508	319	550	302	471
Utilities, fuels, and public services	2,482	2,640	2,356	3,053	2,723	2,457	2,909	2,882
Household operations	553	815	606	793	1,017	639	798	762
Housekeeping supplies	473	473	661	340	407	449	538	489
Household furnishings and equipment	1,328	1,981	1,697	1,417	1,372	1,240	1,624	1,809
Apparel and services	1,610	2,279	1,660	1,712	1,734	1,330	2,492	1,950
Transportation	6,738	8,171	6,347	8,058	7,425	5,986	7,835	9,569
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	3,354	3,914	2,801	3,814	2,840	2,602	3,687	5,039
Gasoline and motor oil	1,052	1,040	1,012	1,074	1,085	900	1,272	1,243
Other vehicle expenses	2,033	2,463	2,100	2,824	3,054	2,074	2,468	2,853
Public transportation	298	755	435	346	446	411	407	435
Health care	1,971	2,202	1,581	1,835	1,481	2,294	2,148	1,919
Entertainment	1,574	2,261	2,104	1,692	1,779	1,471	2,011	1,848
Personal care products and services	393	640	462	343	408	292	528	537
Reading	121	244	129	177	88	118	163	130
Education	431	856	671	545	433	392	535	490
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	288	228	243	198	204	284	301	346
Miscellaneous	758	1,039	2,090	727	651	707	794	959
Cash contributions	1,127	1,366	1,122	1,488	1,066	834	2,251	1,390
Personal insurance and pensions	3,048	5,353	4,354	3,523	3,815	3,026	5,121	4,758
Life and other personal insurance	414	674	433	503	341	324	545	478
Pensions and Social Security	2,635	4,679	3,921	3,020	3,474	2,702	4,575	4,280

¹ Components of income and taxes are derived from "complete income reporters" only; see glossary.

Table 22. Selected midwestern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 1998-1999

Item	All consumer units in the Midwest	Chicago	Detroit	Milwaukee	Minneapolis-St. Paul	Cleveland	Cincinnati	St. Louis	Kansas City
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	25,556	3,055	1,995	686	1,242	1,200	838	993	768
Consumer unit characteristics:									
Income before taxes ¹	\$41,447	\$47,591	\$47,539	\$43,855	\$58,032	\$47,202	\$44,872	\$43,121	\$49,495
Age of reference person	48.2	48.3	47.2	49.0	47.0	49.7	47.5	50.8	43.8
Average number in consumer unit:									
Persons	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5
Children under 18 .....	.7	.8	.8	.7	.6	.7	.6	.7	.7
Persons 65 and over .....	.3	.3	.3	.4	.3	.3	.3	.4	.2
Earners	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5
Vehicles	2.1	1.6	2.0	2.0	2.6	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.2
Percent homeowner	69	64	71	63	68	71	62	75	63
Average annual expenditures	\$35,369	\$38,156	\$38,120	\$36,863	\$48,444	\$37,692	\$37,392	\$36,111	\$36,955
Food	4,802	5,092	5,580	4,344	5,778	4,940	4,994	5,270	5,115
Food at home	2,733	2,802	3,126	2,473	3,050	2,892	2,605	3,193	3,254
Cereals and bakery products	430	423	504	363	435	437	397	499	437
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	671	731	845	538	656	833	600	912	916
Dairy products	304	285	329	281	382	302	312	314	332
Fruits and vegetables	442	514	510	391	535	465	384	536	565
Other food at home	887	849	939	900	1,042	854	912	931	1,005
Food away from home	2,069	2,290	2,454	1,871	2,728	2,048	2,389	2,078	1,861
Alcoholic beverages	304	411	346	356	507	295	356	222	244
Housing	11,196	13,732	13,018	13,147	14,973	11,944	12,072	11,304	11,421
Shelter	6,270	8,408	7,599	8,249	8,811	6,942	6,933	6,435	6,538
Owned dwellings	4,282	5,625	5,474	5,540	6,063	4,925	4,331	4,539	4,194
Rented dwellings	1,558	2,238	1,668	2,326	2,029	1,469	2,153	1,589	1,979
Other lodging	430	545	457	383	719	547	449	308	366
Utilities, fuels, and public services	2,401	2,647	2,607	2,277	2,284	2,523	2,341	2,681	2,597
Household operations	542	520	673	590	1,003	410	797	745	619
Housekeeping supplies	508	567	558	500	659	554	433	328	378
Household furnishings and equipment	1,475	1,590	1,582	1,531	2,217	1,515	1,568	1,115	1,290
Apparel and services	1,607	1,888	2,056	1,319	1,979	1,777	1,595	1,911	1,708
Transportation	6,617	6,233	7,162	7,271	8,847	7,133	6,857	7,014	7,789
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	3,081	2,779	2,854	3,643	4,175	3,471	3,108	3,582	3,948
Gasoline and motor oil	1,036	928	1,054	1,022	1,172	916	1,029	970	1,155
Other vehicle expenses	2,159	1,958	2,835	2,140	2,891	2,304	2,388	2,168	2,383
Public transportation	341	568	419	466	610	442	332	294	303
Health care	2,048	1,951	1,701	2,050	2,262	1,661	2,280	1,985	2,043
Entertainment	1,984	1,771	2,123	1,676	2,498	2,294	1,851	1,640	1,649
Personal care products and services	385	429	532	270	526	481	369	342	307
Reading	168	151	178	182	247	201	183	140	144
Education	583	938	399	469	767	632	691	508	642
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	331	266	403	413	344	321	402	233	302
Miscellaneous	865	778	831	982	1,402	1,351	955	869	953
Cash contributions	1,126	1,249	685	1,085	1,454	939	1,760	1,294	967
Personal insurance and pensions	3,355	3,267	3,106	3,300	6,859	3,723	3,029	3,377	3,671
Life and other personal insurance	387	392	394	359	419	416	371	361	401
Pensions and Social Security	2,968	2,875	2,712	2,941	6,440	3,307	2,658	3,016	3,270

¹ Components of income and taxes are derived from "complete income reporters" only; see glossary.

Table 24. Selected western metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 1998-1999

Item	All consumer units in the West	Los Angeles	San Francisco	San Diego	Portland	Seattle	Honolulu	Anchorage	Phoenix	Denver
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	23,758	5,483	2,781	945	1,053	1,337	298	92	1,220	1,131
Consumer unit characteristics:										
Income before taxes ¹	\$45,736	\$51,552	\$59,224	\$49,988	\$47,414	\$52,304	\$53,537	\$59,391	\$44,090	\$52,948
Age of reference person	46.5	47.0	47.3	49.0	47.2	48.1	51.9	42.5	46.1	44.7
Average number in consumer unit:										
Persons	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.4
Children under 18 .....	.7	.8	.6	.6	.7	.6	.7	.8	.7	.6
Persons 65 and over .....	.3	.3	.3	.3	.2	.3	.4	.1	.3	.2
Earners	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.5
Vehicles	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.5	1.7	2.6	1.8	2.2
Percent homeowner	59	53	59	53	59	66	57	58	60	67
Average annual expenditures	\$40,662	\$43,225	\$51,016	\$44,235	\$43,331	\$44,078	\$42,472	\$50,945	\$40,193	\$44,414
Food	5,312	5,204	6,963	5,292	5,855	6,080	6,300	6,267	4,981	5,172
Food at home	3,132	3,013	4,214	2,849	3,557	3,486	3,423	3,922	2,670	2,793
Cereals and bakery products	466	435	660	444	539	545	501	524	371	432
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	761	815	1,047	671	770	805	935	977	607	593
Dairy products	341	319	409	304	397	362	298	408	334	318
Fruits and vegetables	562	563	794	530	670	641	690	699	454	439
Other food at home	1,001	881	1,304	901	1,182	1,133	999	1,313	904	1,012
Food away from home	2,180	2,192	2,749	2,443	2,298	2,594	2,877	2,345	2,311	2,378
Alcoholic beverages	372	297	516	462	430	541	406	508	437	490
Housing	13,757	15,934	18,059	16,270	13,847	14,899	14,672	17,366	12,893	15,415
Shelter	8,516	10,087	11,886	10,461	8,708	9,387	10,076	10,522	7,725	9,726
Owned dwellings	5,231	5,805	7,377	6,105	5,568	6,160	6,152	6,163	4,691	6,118
Rented dwellings	2,709	3,671	3,818	3,756	2,601	2,461	3,403	3,367	2,538	2,296
Other lodging	575	612	691	600	539	766	520	993	496	1,312
Utilities, fuels, and public services	2,179	2,267	2,193	1,977	2,160	2,263	2,032	2,614	2,458	2,200
Household operations	781	1,256	1,128	990	675	666	513	957	669	860
Housekeeping supplies	513	469	620	514	506	693	554	700	479	482
Household furnishings and equipment	1,768	1,856	2,232	2,327	1,799	1,890	1,497	2,573	1,562	2,147
Apparel and services	1,863	2,158	2,444	2,018	1,687	1,932	1,995	1,957	2,057	1,958
Transportation	7,423	7,551	8,186	8,550	8,117	7,650	5,354	9,284	8,212	8,233
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	3,180	2,976	3,164	3,988	4,123	2,867	999	3,812	4,035	3,116
Gasoline and motor oil	1,129	1,157	1,232	1,177	1,103	1,216	1,060	1,300	1,016	1,107
Other vehicle expenses	2,585	2,860	2,954	2,748	2,373	2,843	2,262	3,191	2,697	3,380
Public transportation	530	558	836	637	519	725	1,033	981	464	631
Health care	1,869	1,757	1,792	1,850	1,837	1,931	2,188	2,324	2,007	1,915
Entertainment	2,139	1,905	2,395	2,684	2,282	3,060	2,083	3,561	2,036	2,570
Personal care products and services	449	472	558	544	424	522	638	524	455	419
Reading	181	144	257	191	198	256	193	312	182	234
Education	676	668	875	398	728	618	1,147	576	535	632
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	217	177	192	166	256	311	217	419	251	288
Miscellaneous	1,070	1,338	1,136	898	826	1,101	979	1,480	967	1,326
Cash contributions	1,344	1,352	2,056	842	2,036	879	1,410	1,225	1,552	970
Personal insurance and pensions	3,990	4,269	5,587	4,070	4,807	4,299	4,890	5,141	3,627	4,791
Life and other personal insurance	355	349	330	452	462	427	687	574	336	427
Pensions and Social Security	3,636	3,920	5,257	3,618	4,345	3,872	4,203	4,568	3,290	4,363

¹ Components of income and taxes are derived from "complete income reporters" only; see glossary.